

21 October 1952

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Basic Research Program of the Human Relations Area
Files, Inc.

1. [] of the "Files" phoned today for information that I might have for him with reference to our conversation on 19 February 1952 (see memorandum attached).

STAT

2. I reported to him on the three problems listed in paragraph 4 of the earlier memorandum:

a. I pointed out that he already knew the State Department attitude toward the Human Relations Area Files (which is that they did not consider the development of the Files useful to the Department's type of intelligence research, although it was recognized that the classification system employed by the Files) would undoubtedly be useful to the scholars throughout the country.

b. With regard to the use of the Files for HIR, I pointed out that this was not mainly a CIA question, since HIR is prepared by the other agencies of the Government and coordinated and edited by us. The attitude of the Department in paragraph a. above took care of the political, cultural, and social aspects. I said I had not checked with the military but presumed that in his discussions with the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see paragraph 1 of my earlier memorandum) he could take care of that better than I.

c. With respect to CIA seeking to persuade Army, Navy, or Air to continue their support of the Files in the event they should decide not to continue it or whether the Agency would seek to find governmental and financial support elsewhere I stated that it was my expectation that this would not be the case.

(NOTE: At the time of the earlier conversation I talked with [] and he had a very low opinion of the Files. I think mainly because it was almost exclusively designed to classify on five by eight cards secondary source materials such as quotes from published works and, by and large, this was being done out of context.)

STAT

cc: DD/I
AD/RR
Mr. Shaffer, RCM/OIC

JAMES Q. REBER
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

SP5